

MAINE FARMER

AGRICULTURE MECHANICAL ARTS LITERATURE NEWS, &c. State Library 1-95

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"OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN."

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AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1895.

No. 46.

Maine Farmer.

The annual Chicago Fat Stock Show, usually held the last of November, has been declared off by the Illinois State Board of Agriculture.

A Wisconsin farmer says there is nothing under the sun like a barn cellar full of roots to drive bad bacteria out of your barn and hog pens and away from the farm. Pretty good doctrine, we say.

The Massachusetts crop bulletin reports the corn crop "one of the largest ever grown." It is almost universally reported to be in good condition, with large stover and well set with ears. Potatoes are considerably above the average yield in nearly all localities. Winter apples a light crop and poor quality.

It is said that two German scientists have discovered that milk may be sterilized by subjecting it to the passage of an alternating electric current. All micro-organisms taken up by the milk from the air, etc., are said to be permanently destroyed by the electric current without affecting the quality of the milk treated to any appreciable extent.

Aroostook county farmers have based their year's effort principally on the potato crop. Yet the potato crop is plentiful throughout New England and the price is extremely low as a consequence. The demand for starch is also light, and the outlook in that direction is not encouraging at this time. However, when the wheel of fortune turns in their favor the crop is a bonanza, but they have to catch low prices once in a while.

The new plan of the State Pomological Society for judging fruit by scale of points did not work satisfactorily to the exhibitors. We must admit, as before indicated, that we cannot see how this method of work can be applied to a collective fruit exhibition. Still we are open to conviction and would like the opinion of others. A discussion of the matter may throw light upon it. We propose the fruit growers talk it over. Our columns are open for any opinions that may be expressed or information given.

The Massachusetts Ploughman says that "our agricultural fairs are liable to prove educating forces in a wrong direction unless greater care is exercised to prevent the operations of gambling and sharp and other fakers of the objectionable sort." Certainly he could not mean our State Fair, which, thanks to the demands of the public and the determination of its officers, is kept absolutely clear of all such detachments. And as to our county and district fairs, the law of the State prohibits all such attachments and as a penalty, if transgression were attempted, withholds all State aid from the guilty. The Pine Tree State does not believe in promoting "education in the wrong direction."

JUDGING AT FAIRS—EXPERTS.

One of the most important features at the fairs, as we look at it, is the laying of the awards. If the prizes mean anything more than the pocketing of so much money, the judging should be done by men worthy and well qualified for the work. The old-fashioned committee method worked well for awhile, but finally became difficult to carry on, and we are sorry to be obliged to admit, in many cases demoralized and unreliable. The one-man expert judge was talked up and advocated, and finally has been generally adopted at all important exhibitions. In theory we believe this is the right course, and we have watched its advent with much of interest, and with a large measure of satisfaction over the general adoption of the system, and in the full belief that the objections to the former methods would be overcome. So, too, in the same connection, the use of the score card now being introduced we believe is a further step toward carrying the judging to that reliability that everybody concerned so much desires.

In the application of this modern method of placing the awards at fairs, we must confess to a measure of disappointment. The principle is proving right in every particular, but the application is not always what it ought to be. We have been an observing attendant on many fairs, and also an interested exhibitor, and we have never met the case where the work of a fully competent judge did not give general satisfaction among the exhibitors for whom he was doing the work. The fact is, these exhibitors are themselves expert judges of the stock or the articles they show. An expert in fact hangs the ribbons where they belong, and there is nothing left to be said about it. But there is a tendency on the part of officers of societies to select experts (?) who, if not a Jack-at-all-trades, pose as experts in anything that comes along. It is possible that some judges may be fully qualified to work in more than one class of stock or of other exhibits. As a fact, however, men are not found who are experts in many different directions, and especially when widely different qualifications are called for. Bringing a man from a distance and naming him an expert is not doing

justice to exhibitors, unless he is qualified for the work. We recall a case where, at an important exhibition, a man unrecognized by any breeders' association was called and set to service as an expert in poultry, dairy products, swine, and several classes of cattle of widely differing breeds. And still another case, that came under our knowledge, where a cattle expert from another State was called to scale a large and highly meritorious exhibition of butter, although never having been before recognized or known as an authority in dairy matters. When interested exhibitors looking on saw that he had brought a pot of butter from Boston market as the basis for a judgment he could only use by comparison with his sample, it did not tend to inspire confidence in the score card record made up to govern the awards. The same individual did not know what the samples of granular butter were until informed, and then was found trying to stick the globules of a sample together so he could test its quality! This is an extreme illustration of the point we would make, though a fact of recent occurrence in an important exhibition.

Many of the county fairs, in attempting to introduce the expert judge system, are making mistakes similar to those alluded to above. In their case they may find a plausible reason in the fact that they cannot bear any heavy expense in such a service. But we claim, better far an old-fashioned yet competent committee selected for the occasion, than a hired servant dubbed an expert who is not fully qualified for the duties placed upon him. This is especially true where score card work is demanded, and a written record thus left of their incompetency. Exhibitors are entitled to just awards, and any system or any course of procedure that does not give this deserves only condemnation. Officers will do well to spare no pains to meet so just a demand. Let us have experts in fact.

OUR ILLUSTRATION.

The fine picture we give this week represents a snap shot of bull Stoke Pogis of Prospect 2021, owned by Mr. C. A. Sweet, Buffalo, N. Y., and at the head of his elegant herd of Jerseys at East Aurora. This bull is just now five years old, having been dropped in July, 1890. His sire was Stoke Pogis 5th, the sire of 20 in the list, and for so long a time in the great herd of Messrs. Miller & Sibley, and a well known bull.

Ida Marigold, the dam of this bull, has gone on record and into history, as one of the grandest of Jersey cows. Ida's "family tree" is as well known as her work in the World's Fair held at Chicago, which need not be repeated here. Her best week's butter record is 25 lbs., 2½ oz.

Stoke Pogis of Prospect, in color, is a dark fawn, with a little white undermarkings. He weighed, August 12th, 1,750 lbs. He is a bull of splendid form, being so well proportioned that an expert would do but little criticizing on his individuality. Well proportioned, front and rear, with straight lines, good body and legs. So when we find this young bull with a constitution equal to carry him for twenty years in good service, breeding on both sides of his pedigree to the best lines known, with two daughters already in the list, why should not his owner look on him with great pleasure and expectation.

THE CORN CROP.

The golden ears of corn, ripening in the bright sunshine of these autumn days, are symbols of bounty and good husbandry. No other crop of the farm so clearly and surely shows the forethought, activity and enterprise of a farmer as does this one crop of America's great cereal. A bountiful yield is rewarding the efforts of the husbandman at the present time. Now is the season, as the kernels are fully glazed, to cut and cure it for the husking soon to follow, or for the silo for which it was grown. All of this is pleasant labor, garnering in the bounty of the year. The crop is a great one and is now fully safe from frost or other damage. Will our readers please report their success with the crop, either sweet corn or yellow, the past season, giving soil, soil and tillage, method of fertilizing, how planted, and final yield, (baskets of ears or pounds of cut sweet corn). The columns of the Farmer are open to you. Let's know about this corn crop.

SAVING SEED-ORN.

Nothing is of more importance in connection with the corn crop than good seed. To make sure of good seed at all times and without fail it should be fire-dried. Seed thus dried is sure to germinate under unfavorable conditions, will start stronger, and will maintain itself better under adverse conditions. Simply sowing the seed is not the full test of good seed. When starting out it wants all the possible powers of growth that can be given. This is secured only by drying it promptly, and especially thoroughly before cold weather comes on. Some years this may be possible without artificial heat, but in most years it is not. Hence fire drying is always the safest and therefore the best course. Every

kernel is then sure to germinate. For sweet corn artificial drying is of even more importance than with yellow corn, since it is more difficult to dry through thoroughly.

HEMP SEED FOR ABORTION.

As abortion among cows is always somewhere abroad, and as we happen to know that some of our subscribers are at this time going through with a severe experience with it, we give the following from the Breeder's Gazette:

During the twenty-five years in which I was actively engaged in breeding Short-horns I bred some very good individuals

with very poor pedigrees and some poor animals with gilt-edge pedigrees; but in all these years I had no occasion to seek for a remedy for abortion.

About fifteen years ago when I quit breeding I could not give up my Short-horns entirely, but have continued to keep two or three well bred cows for milk and butter. One of my favorites (a well bred Vellum), now twelve years old, having failed to bring me a calf for nearly two years, having aborted twice, and being both to give her up, I recalled something of frequent conversations had with one of the old veteran breeders on the subject. Having no need for his remedy I had only retained a vague idea of it. In looking over the files of my old papers I found what I was looking for in the fifth volume, May number, 1874, of the now defunct National Live Stock Journal. It is from the pen of the late W. R. Duncan of Towanda, Ill.

The mention of the name of W. R. Duncan will at once bring to the memory of all the older Short-horn breeders a man who stood high in their ranks as one of the most intelligent and successful among them. I am trying his remedy and knowing what success Mr. Duncan used it I have faith in it and recommend it to my friends:

"HEMP SEED AS A PREVENTIVE OF ABORTION." To the Editor of the Journal: Since the publication of my hemp seed remedy for abortion in animals I have received quite a number of letters of inquiry as to its efficacy and manner of feeding it. In reply to the former I would say that *Materia Medica* has never furnished to the country any such remedy. Nothing has ever been used by the scientific men of the world so immediately in effect or so reliable. By the use of it I have not only broken up an established habit of abortion, but have arrested its progress and relieved the patient after the most scientific men had decided that it could not be done with any remedy. I have done so after there was an apparent rupture of the membranes and quite a discharge of the liquor amnii. The use of it as a remedy has been equally successful with me in treating all females, as I have never made one failure in twenty years. I could do this because I have made a fortune out of the remedy. With such females as can make a complaint in time I only use the remedy at such times as may be necessary; but with such as cannot I feed about one pint of the clean seed every week. In others I feed all at once, or at times as may be convenient for one or two months after the abortion period, or until the time of delivery, keeping the patient as quiet as can be done with convenience. With this remedy I have not only prevented abortion but have in every instance seen the subject of the effort so to do surrounded by a healthy living offspring.

More than one of the members of my own family, as well as several of the young Short-horns in the herd, owe their existence to its efficacy. (Signed) W. R. DUNCAN. Towanda, Ill.

The above is Mr. W. R. Duncan's communication to the Journal, verbatim, etc. McLean, Co., Ill. T. E. TALBOT.

CROPS IN MAINE.

The latest bulletin of Secretary McKee of the Board of Agriculture, makes a gratifying showing respecting the Maine crops.

The bulletins will be continued for two months longer. "It is our purpose," says Secretary McKee, "to make the next one a 'fruit number,' and that for November will be a general round-up of the season's work, containing the results of such experiments as we may be able to obtain, as well as full reports upon all of our crops."

Below are given the summaries by Lincoln County.

Grain harvested in fine condition. Yield good, as far as threshed. None of any amount fed unthreshed. Potato crop not as promising as last month; some rust, but no rot. Corn looking finely.

Oxford County.

Grain harvested in fine condition. As far as threshed the yield is excellent. One correspondent reports forty to forty-five bushels of oats per acre. About one-third of the grain will be fed without threshing. As far as reports are given, this practice is very satisfactory. Potato prospects about the same as last month; some rust, but no rot. Corn above the average.

Penobscot County.

Grain harvested in fine condition. Yield good, as far as threshed. One correspondent reports forty bushels of oats per acre. None fed without threshing. Potato crop about as last month; some rust, but no rot. Corn excellent; with a favorable fall a heavy crop is assured.

Piscataquis County.

Grain harvested in good condition; yield as far as threshed, good. One correspondent reports a yield of thirty-three and one-half bushels of buckwheat from three-fourths of an acre, and 100 bushels of oats from three and one-half acres. But one correspondent speaks of feeding grain unthreshed; he calls it equal to the best of hay. Potato prospects fully equal to last month; some rust, but no rot. Corn heavy and forward.

Sagadahoc County.

Grain harvested in good condition, yield, as far as threshed, good. Some report fifty bushels of oats per acre. But very little grain fed unthreshed, no report of results. Potato prospects not as good as last month; much rust and some rot. Crop will be below the average. Corn first class, but somewhat late.

Somerset County.

Grain harvested in fine condition, yield, as far as threshed, about ten per cent. above average. But very little grain fed in the straw, no report of results. Potato prospects not as good as last month, considerable complaint of rot. Corn heavy, about ten per cent. above the average.

Washington County.

Grain harvested in good condition. Yield good, as far as threshed. About fifty per cent. cut for fodder. Value equal to good hay. Potatoes badly rusted, but little indications of rot. Corn very heavy, and well eared.

General Average.

The grain crop has been harvested in good condition, except some of the late grain in Aroostook county, and is very heavily headed. The yield as far as threshed is above average. It would seem that feeding it in the straw is not on the increase, although nearly all who have tried it report good results. We believe the prospects for a heavy yield of potatoes is not as good as last month, but as the acreage is large there will be a large crop. The rust has not been so general as in some years, the most damage, as reported, is in the central and western portions of Kennebec county. The yield of corn will be heavy wherever planted, and we expect to report in our next bulletin, the largest crop that has been raised in Maine for many years.

George W. Abbott of Andover writes: All farmers should raise their own seed. I have learned from experience that the only way to avoid weed seeds is to raise my own seed and sow clean seed. It takes but a few rods of ground to raise what clover and herdsgrass seed is needed on the farm, and it takes but a few minutes to sift a bushel of grain and thus

secure pure seed free from all weed seed. The replies of many of the correspondents are printed in this bulletin and they will be found to contain no little information of the practical experiment sort, the kind that will be read by the farmers with great interest.

G. W. Walton of Wayne, in reply to a question in a previous bulletin, as to the cost of raising a heifer calf until two years old, submits the following: Value of calf when dropped, \$1.00; cost of keeping first three months, \$0.00; cost of keeping the rest of first summer, \$1.00; cost of keeping the first winter, \$5.00; cost of keeping the second summer, \$2.00; cost of keeping the second winter, \$8.00; total, \$26.00.

For the Maine Farmer.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

BY H. H. OSGOOD.

Permit your correspondent to tell the story of his little potato patch. The varieties were Clark's No. 1, Early Northern, Rose Seedling, Burpee's Extra Early, and Queen of Roses, planted May 31 and June 1. They were harvested Sept. 6 and 7. The yield was in marketable potatoes to the acre as follows: Clark's No. 1, 418 bushels; Early Northern, 301; Rose Seedling, 320½; Burpee's Extra Early, 305½; Queen of Roses, 370½.

The land was a gravelly loam on a ridge. Three years ago it bore not more than 600 pounds to the acre of a poor quality of grass. The sod was turned and 1200 pounds of Stockbridge corn Manure was applied. The yield was satisfactory. Last season it was sown to oats for fodder, 500 pounds of Stockbridge to the acre being used. A good yield of oats was obtained, the stubble was turned under and winter rye was sown. That was cut the last of May and the piece was planted to potatoes, using one ton to the acre of Stockbridge Potato Manure, one half broadcasted and thoroughly harrowed in, the remainder scattered in the drill.

The lion brand of Bordeaux Mixture was applied twice. On one row of Clark's No. 1, one and a half rods was left unsprayed. The weight of potatoes on this unsprayed portion was 30 pounds, being at the rate of 293½ bushels per acre. Deducting this from the 418 bushels named above, there is a difference in favor of spraying of 124½ bushels to the acre. The use of this mixture to prevent the blight should be investigated by our farmers.

Bluehill, Sept. 9.

For the Maine Farmer.

BUCKWHEAT, OR RHINOLES!

BY T. W. EMBERTON.

Mr. Editor: While so much just now is in the papers of praise and delight of the prosperity of Aroostook county, an incident of a few years ago will be in order as a contrast of then and now:

A gentleman came to the ferry to cross. His appearance and that of the team at once excited the ferryman's curiosity and suspicion. The thills were bent and the harness all leather, with an over-check, the first seen by the ferryman. After crossing, the strange gentleman asked "What is the bill, sir?" "Well, buckwheat or shingles." "What is the bill for ferrying me across, sir?" "Well, I say which is it, buckwheat or shingles?" "I have not got any buckwheat or shingles, here, sir," and passed him a quarter. The tried and astonished ferryman at once passed it back, and said, "Buckwheat or shingles, sir; you can't pass your old buttons off on me!"

Skowhegan.

POTATO CROP.

Mr. Editor: No potato rot to speak of in this section to date. Vines have been killed about three weeks. Yield will be light on all late planted. I have 40 acres of beauties planted; 20 acres will be a fair crop, and the last 20 planted will be about half a crop.

Yours truly, J. E. HAMILTON.

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BUCKWHEAT, OR RHINOLES!

**BANK
CHECK**

AND

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SOLD EVERYWHERE

10

Maine Farmer.

ESTABLISHED IN 1833.

Published every Thursday, by
Badger & Manley,
AUGUSTA, MAINE.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1895.

TERMS.
\$1.50 IN ADVANCE; OR \$2.00 IF NOT PAID
WITHIN ONE YEAR OF DATE OF
SUBSCRIPTION.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.
For one inch space, \$2.50 for three inser-
tions and seventy-two cents for each subse-
quent insertion.

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE.
Mr. C. S. AYER, our Agent, is now calling
upon our subscribers in Androscoggin and
Oxford counties.
Mr. J. W. KELLOGG is now calling upon our
subscribers in Penobscot county.

The officials of the different steam-
boat lines on the Kennebec river in re-
ferring to their season's business, state
that it has been an unusually good year;
and that 20 to 25 per cent. more visitors
have been carried to the summer res-
orts than is ordinarily the case.

A returning Bates College student was
somewhat chagrined, when his trunk
was bumped upon the platform of the
Lewiston station the other day, to see
the juice of a dozen eggs, which biddy
had laid for him just before leaving
home, oozing from the trunk in plain
view of the bystanders.

The Governor and Council have refused
to pardon David L. Stain and Oliver
Cromwell, who were convicted in 1888 of
murdering Cashier Barron of the Dexter
Savings Bank, and are in State prison for
life. The question has now probably
been settled for all time, and these mur-
derers will be allowed to stay just where
they belong.

The number of barns that were struck
by lightning in rural Massachusetts
during the electrical disturbance the
other night is something astonishing.
Many of them were destroyed by fire,
with their contents, and others were
badly rattled by the bolts. Rarely, if
ever, have so many farmers suffered
losses from this cause through such a
wide extent of territory at the same
time.

The new Shore Line Railroad will be
about one hundred and eleven miles in
length. The surveyors will start at once
on their work. The route for the line
will be laid out as quickly as possible.
Before the cold weather interferes with
operations it is expected that 10 miles of
the roadway will be graded. This work
will be done at the Calais end of the
line. A great country will be served by
this road, and it will develop an im-
portant section which has been strug-
gling along without railroad facilities of
any consequence for many years.

The general convention of the Protestant
Episcopal church, which convenes in
Minneapolis in October, will be one of
the most august gatherings ever held in
the history of the Anglican church in
America, and its deliberations will be
watched with intense interest both at
home and abroad. The convention will
be made up of the most distinguished
laymen, prelates and bishops, and among
the momentous questions which are to
be discussed and legislated upon will be
paramount the great question which has
been so thoroughly presented and stren-
uously agitated, relative to the expedi-
ency of revising the constitution or
abandoning it entirely.

The September number of the *Maine
Central* contains several fine plates,
showing summer resorts, camping places,
and big yields of fish and game. It is a
fine number, fragrant with breezes from
mountains and lakes. Maine stands un-
rivalled as the summer playground for
all America, and this excellent publica-
tion, the *Maine Central*, published by
Samuel Cook Manley, has done much to
introduce its great attractions to the
world at large. During the past twelve
months 120,000 copies of this publica-
tion have been distributed among the
traveling public. The October number
will be devoted to the hunting and fish-
ing interests of the State, and will be
unusually attractive.

The day of the delicious Malaga grape
has passed forever. Twenty-five years
ago 1,200,000 boxes of raisins were
shipped from that Spanish province to
the United States. Last year the ship-
ment was only 31,734 boxes. A quarter
of a century ago 264,000 acres were
under cultivation in grapes; now not
more than 60,000 are free from the
dreaded phylloxera; 100,000 acres of
vines have been partly destroyed, and
100,000 acres are wholly ruined. Twenty-
five varieties have entirely disappeared.
Such is the dismal statement communi-
cated by the United States Consul David
N. Burke to the Department of State at
Washington. The vine growing industry
of Malaga, which dates back to the time
when Spain was a province of Rome, is
a complete wreck.

The returns to the Agricultural De-
partment concerning corn are most en-
couraging. It is true that the average
condition of the crop is 6.1 per cent.
lower than it was in August; but it is
still very high—being 96.4, as against
only 83.4 a year ago. The present aver-
age is higher than in any September in
the last 10 years, and hence better than
the great crop years of 1889 and 1891.
The harvest of corn this year will be
from the largest area ever cultivated to
this crop. It will be remembered that
of the 76,000,000 acres planted in 1894,
over 15,000,000 acres were subsequently
cut for fodder or abandoned, so that the
commercial yield last year fell to 1,212,
770,000 bushels. The area this year is
82,000,000 acres, and the splendid condi-
tion of the crop justifies the popular be-
lief that the production will exceed the
largest previous yield, which was 2,112,
892,000 bushels, in 1889. Since the date
of the Government compilation of aver-
ages, the weather has been exceptionally
favorable for corn, which has been ben-
efited by needed rain, and has had entire
immunity from damaging frosts.

THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION OF 1865.

Tuesday of this week was the thirtieth
anniversary of the great conflagration
that swept out of existence the busi-
ness street of Augusta, on Sunday,
Sept. 17th, 1865. Those who remember
vividly and clearly the exciting scenes
of that eventful Sunday morning, are
now reckoned among the old men and
women of the community. Those who
now look upon Water street with its
beautiful stores and fair proportions, can
hardly realize the feeling of despondency
that seized the people on the evening of
that dreadful day as the rain descended
and the weeping skies added their tear-
ful tribute to the night of gloom. But
the morning of hope came; business
men took courage; their faith in the
future of Augusta could not be damp-
ened by a conflagration, and they re-
solved to go forward and rebuild the
city. This they did, as subsequent
events show.

The alarm of fire was given about 4
A. M., Sunday morning, fire being dis-
covered in an unfinished wooden build-
ing on the east side of Water street,
nearly midway between Bridge and
Winthrop streets, the property of the
late Dr. H. H. Hill. Eri Willis was then
chief engineer, and although the fire de-
partment responded promptly, there
seemed to be some mistake in giving
the orders, the flames speedily com-
municating to the wooden buildings ad-
joining, and what afterwards proved to
be a fearful conflagration was under full
headway. It must be remembered that
the fire department at that time con-
sisted of the new fire engine Cushman,
which had recently been purchased by
the city government, and two hand tubs,
the Pacific and Atlantic. Compare that
with our present facilities to cope with
a fire! Such a conflagration would now
be simply impossible. The firemen
worked with a faithfulness the like of
which the writer of this never saw
equalled. They were assisted by brother
firemen with their "tubs" from the ad-
joining towns, but of what avail were
hand engines in such a fire? But we
must give them credit of saving the
grand old Kennebec bridge, and fixing
the boundary line of the course of the
flames.

Soon the high Stanley House, opposite
which the fire originated, and several
other brick structures above and be-
low it, were in flames. The oc-
cupants of these stores and the hotel
endeavored to remove their property,
but only an inconsiderable amount could
be saved. Many of the inmates of the
Stanley House were compelled to leave
their rooms with barely sufficient rain-
ment to cover them. Fabulous prices
were paid to owners of truck-teams and
baggage wagons for removing goods.
As the fire reached the unfinished sta-
tion of the then Portland & Kennebec
Railroad, people began to abandon hope
of staying the progress of the flames,
and the scene at this time to those who
were obliged to flee to the hillsides, was
indestructible. The lurid progress of the
angry element on every hand, the thun-
der crashes of the falling walls, the des-
perate energy of the intrepid firemen as
they still bravely but ineffectually strug-
gled to arrest the fiery footsteps of the
destroyer, again and again returning to
the attack, only to be defeated and
driven back,—masses of half frantic hu-
manity rushing hither and thither, en-
gaged in the eager but frequently fruit-
less task of emptying the burning and
threatened buildings of their contents.
The fearful scene is photographed in our
mind, never to be obliterated.

About six o'clock in the morning all
the buildings on each side of Water
street, from the Freemans Bank to
Market square, were a mass of crumbling
ruins, including Pullen's marble manuf-
actory and the Cony livery stable on
Bridge street, the stable of Charles Saw-
yer, and the livery stable and dwelling
house of John D'Arthenay on Oak
street, the dwelling houses of Willard
Kimball, Mrs. Kimball and Capt. Eben-
ezer Smith, and the brick paint shop of
Beale & Farnham, between Oak and
Winthrop streets. The brick stores
north of the bank were now on fire, the
flames extending across Bridge street,
to Bridge's block, and threatening to sweep
northward to the railroad bridge. The
fire had also reached the post office, in
the elegant and extensive block which
had recently been erected by the heirs of
Hon. Reuel Williams, on the east side of
the street, only a brief space intervening
between it and the Kennebec bridge.
Here the progress of the conflagration
was stayed. A band of brave men had
been posted upon the roof of the Kenne-
bec bridge, and with buckets of water
had kept it so thoroughly saturated
that the showers of blazing clammers fell
harmless upon the otherwise inflamma-
ble surface. Had the bridge taken fire
no human power could have prevented
an extensive destruction of property on
the east side of the river.

The flames had about spent their fury,
and were now under control. But what
a scene of desolation was presented to
our afflicted people! From Bridge street
to Market square, a distance of nearly a
quarter of a mile, embracing all our finest
and most substantially constructed busi-
ness edifices, the pride of our city, in a
brief space of time swept over with a
fiery tempest, becoming a mass of in-
distinguishable ruin. All the banking
houses, four in number, were destroyed;
the post office, the express and tele-
graph offices; all the bookstores and pe-
riodical depots; all the flour and grain
stores; all the dry goods dealers either
burned out or compelled to remove their
stocks; all the clothing dealers and tail-
ors burned out; all the meat, fish and
provision markets; all the shoe stores;
with three or four exceptions, all the
grocery stores; three of the five apothec-
ary establishments; two hotels, the
Stanley and Franklin Houses; the rail-
road depot; all the daguerreotype sa-
lons; all the lawyers' offices; all the
billiard rooms, and a majority of the
drinking saloons and liquor shops of the
city. The contents of the latter, though
sold for drink, and drank freely during
the fire, were almost of too poor qual-
ity to burn! The loss was about \$500,000,
and the insurance one-half that amount.
This of course did not include the loss

of valuable papers, bonds and money in
the safes, the contents of which were
totally destroyed or irreparably dam-
aged. Most of the safes proved worthless.
The Government was a heavy loser, in
the loss of valuable papers. Large
quantities of Government clothing were
also destroyed.

Standing upon the ruins of their once
fair city, our people were full of hope
and courage, and there resolved that
Augusta should rise from her ashes,
fairer and more beautiful than ever.
Look around you, and see if the promise
has not been kept.

BACKED OUT.

The international yacht races off the
New Jersey coast between the Defender
and Valkyrie, for the possession of
America's cup, absorbed general atten-
tion until the fact back down of Lord
Dunraven, the owner of the Valkyrie.
Taking our report from where we left it
last week, it will be remembered that
Defender won the first race. Valkyrie
won the second, but was disqualified for
interference at the start, and the race
given to Defender, and this was accept-
ed to both sides; Lord Dunraven re-
fused to sail the third, owing to the cup
committee's refusal to declare the race
void if either boat was hampered by the
other; he crossed the line and returned
sidecraft; he crossed the line and re-
turned to New York, where his craft is
being dismantled to be sent back to
Scotland. The general verdict is that
the coast was clear, and the claim that
there was outside craft in the way was
a lame and silly excuse for withdrawing
from a race in which the Valkyrie would
certainly be beaten.

Gen. Chas. H. Taylor, editor of the
Boston Globe, telegraphed C. Oliver
Iselin and Lord Dunraven as follows:
"Owing to the unsatisfactory conditions
which seem to exist off New York for a
contest of such magnitude as you are
engaged in, I hereby offer a \$5000 inter-
national challenge cup to be sailed for
by the Defender and Valkyrie III off
Marblehead, the cup to be called the
"Massachusetts Bay cup." In case of
acceptance the conditions can be arranged
at once."

Dunraven said this was a very hand-
some offer, but he felt obliged to decline
it. He was determined to be a "quitter."
Americans who have long admired the
sportsmanlike qualities of Lord Dun-
raven, have reached the conclusion that
he permitted his temper to get the best
of his ordinarily good judgment when
he withdrew from the contest. Of course
he had a right to withdraw his boat—
any man in this free country has an un-
disputed right to make a fool of himself
—but to the ordinary mortal it seems
somewhat absurd that any one should
invest a very large sum of money in a
yacht, and then go to the further trouble
and expense of sailing that yacht from
Europe, then to refuse an offer to wipe
out a technical victory for an opposing
yacht by resailing an unsatisfactory race,
and finally to declare that he wouldn't
play anyhow. It was a very silly and
childish performance. But Americans
can console themselves with the fact
that the Defender is a better and faster
boat than the Valkyrie, and that the
cup will remain in this country until
they bring over a better boat.

Death of George S. Ballard.

Mr. George S. Ballard, the well known
trader on Water street, in this city, died
at his home on Sewall street, yesterday
morning, at 6 o'clock. He died his
last work at his store four weeks ago
last Monday. Although he has been
there once or twice since, he was af-
flicted with Bright's disease, which
led to heart trouble, and during his ill-
ness he suffered considerably, maintain-
ing his consciousness to the latest hour
of his life.

Mr. Ballard was born in Westbrook,
and was 61 years of age last July. He
came here forty-three years ago, and
entered the tin ware establishment of
Thompson & Buckley. This firm carried
on a retail and wholesale business, sup-
plying the peddlers who were then very
plentiful throughout the country, and
shipping many of their goods to Cali-
fornia. Afterwards he worked in the
same business for Charles S. Buckley,
and afterwards became a member of the
firm of Ballard & Haggood. In 1860 he
formed a partnership with John W.
Chase, under the firm name of Ballard &
Chase, and this pleasant relation con-
tinued for ten years. Since that time he
has been in business alone, thus far-
ing thirty-three years continuing the oc-
cupation which he adopted when a young
man, being one of the oldest traders on
Water street in continuous service.

Mr. Ballard was deeply interested in politics
and other matters pertaining to the welfare
of the community, the State and the
nation, he chose a business life, and from
that he was not to be diverted. He
served two terms in the State legislature,
and was a member of the City
Council, but would never become a
candidate for office. He was a pur-
sued, conscientious and honest man.
In business matters he believed in con-
servative methods, never resorting to
sensationalism of any kind, or methods
of doubtful utility.

Mr. Ballard some forty years ago
married Miss Caroline Whittier of Read-
field, who survives him. They had but
one child, Grace, a daughter in whom
was centered the heart's warmest affec-
tions. In 1881 Grace became the wife
of Mr. Fred Cony, and died deeply
lamented in 1888. In religious senti-
ment Mr. Ballard was a Universalist.
The funeral will take place at his late
residence on Sewall street, Saturday
forenoon at 11 o'clock.

THE SAGO VALLEY SETTLEMENTS.

We have before us a publication of
1248 royal octavo pages, which has been
twenty-five years in preparation. It shows
the result of earnest, patient, honest
toil, a versatility of talents on the part
of the author and compiler. It deals with
the Saco Valley Settlements and Fam-
ilies, being historical, biographical, gene-
alogical, traditional, and legendary, em-
bracing the most important events in
the towns on the Saco River, from the
time of their plantation condition to the
present, with memorials of the families
and individuals instrumental in their
settlement, advancement and prosperity.

It is printed on the finest paper, with
clear, handsome type, and beautifully
embellished with portraits, views of
family seats, and other illustrations, call-
ing to mind the precious lines—
"How dear to my heart are the scenes of my
childhood,
When fond recollection presents them to
my view,
And every loved spot which my infancy
knew."

The author is G. T. Riddon, Sr., who
has compiled several works of this char-
acter. Possessing an inherent taste for
local history and a reminiscent narrative
of pioneer experience, absorbing the
wondrous tales of the red sons of the
forest, the author seems specially fitted
for the task he has so ably performed.
He obtained much of his material from
researches in Great Britain. The old
homesteads and graveyards in the Saco
valley have furnished the author a rich
field for investigation. One old settler,
to whom he applied for information, said
to him: "Now look a-here, stranger,
there's not a name, date, nor scratch of
pen in my house; but if my old Aunt
Bets was alive she'd tell ye all about our
geology, for she had all the chronicles
and proclamations clear back to Adam.
But there, she's dead and lies up yender,
so ye can't get a word out of her, an'
I dunno what ye'll do."

So full of rich and comical incidents is
the book, it will amuse as well as in-
struct. A light and elastic vein runs
through these broad, handsome pages,
making them fitting companions for the
long winter evenings that will soon be
piping about us.

The praises of the Saco River are first
sung, the charming river that
"Porth from New Hampshire's granite steep
Fair Saco rolls in chainless pride,
Rejoicing as it laughs and leaps
Down the gray mountain's rugged side."

The "White Hills," which form the
birthplace of the infant Saco, come in
for a share of attention, as well as the
settlement of the Indian villages in that
vicinity. The traditions and legends of
the place are given. As the best
authorities now attribute to our North
American aborigines an Asiatic origin,
the history of the Soko Indians is
dealt with, the tribe that inhabited the
region of the Saco, and who claimed to
have received the lands "from the Great
Father of Life." They were in many
respects a noble people, of majestic form
and graceful carriage. Pictures of
Indian weapons and implements are
here given, accounts of the several Indian
tribes, their garb, block-houses, forts,
etc., and pictures of the same.

The "old times on the Saco" were
times of deprivation and grief. The
farm house represented the third gen-
eration of New England dwellings. As
soon as the land had become sufficiently
productive to supply the family with
food, and to support a pair of oxen and
two or three cows, a new and more com-
modious dwelling was built. There
must be more beds, a wider table, and
more expansive fireside. The surplus
crops could now be carried to market
and exchanged for furniture. The
dwellings were nearly forty feet square
on the foundation, the posts not more
than eight feet in height, and the gables
very high. Emerging from the log
house, there was plenty of room in the
new structure for the kitchen, back-
room, fore-room, bedrooms, dresser-room,
cellar, wash, scullery, stair-way, entry-way
and clothes-press. The furniture was
heavy and substantial. High-posted, tall
beds, bottomed chairs stood in mili-
tary order about the wall. A two-leaved
table, with a draw at one end for the
spread and cutlery, and a rail about the
legs to rest one's feet upon; a small
"light-stand" between the windows for
the family Bible and work-basket; the
canopied, constantly patronized cradle,
and when "forehanded" a tall, solemn-
looking clock in the corner. In the
backroom a "chest of drawers" in the
fore-room a bureau over which hung a
"mourning-piece" in pine frame, headed
"Sacred to the Memory," over the pic-
ture of a disconsolate woman wiping
her weeping eyes with a voluminous
handkerchief, supported all this time by
leaning upon a two-handled urn under
the shade of a "weeping willow." By the
side of this the appropriate "Family
Register" containing the names of a
whole baker's dozen of sons and daugh-
ters. And the generous, open fireplace
shed its comfort throughout the entire
house. And how different the food and
cooking from that of the present day.
The bannock, the Indian pudding, bean
soup, meat broth, "biled" dinners, veni-
son and fish. The Saco river was so full
of salmon when the first clearings were
made on its banks, that they were caught
with trap, spear and hook in such quan-
ties that barrels of them were cured
and kept for winter use. And then the
preparation of cloth for making the
family clothing. To spin six skeins of
yarn on the Quaker wheel required a
journey of more than twenty miles a
day. It required about as much artistic
skill to manipulate the spinning-wheel
for married life consisted largely of the
abundance of linen the young lady had
neatly bleached and folded away for
table and toilet. If this had been spun
and woven by her own hands, to her the
more honor was due. The wardrobes of
the early settlers' wives and daughters
would, to-day, be called meager; but
they wore their neat, prudent attire so
much like a queen, while there was such
genuine modesty and unaffected grace
in the deportment of the wearer, that
the "ornament of a meek and quiet spirit"
became a thousand times more attrac-
tive than the gaudy flummery of this
artificial age when the standard of beauty

takes cognizance more of dress than
good breeding.

And then the genuineness of the "af-
ternoon calls." Let us look into one of
these farm houses.

"Come right in and lay off yer things,
Aunt Prudence; there now, do make
yerself to home. Why, I'm proper glad
to see you, Aunt Prudence; how do you
do?"

"There, Aunt Sally, I'm real well,
thank you; real smart this fall; how do
you do?"

"Why, I was never more rugged in my
life, Aunt Prudence; why, I'm up and
'bout my work early and late; have been
spinnin' flax 'n' swingin' to all the fall,
'tween whiles. Come, now, Aunt Pru-
dence, do tell me 'bout your folks;
how's Jeann's Marg'ret's Patty'n
Abrum's Reliance'n Sabra'n John'n
Liane'n Rastus'n Pashune'n Aramatha;
are they all well?"

"They's all real well, Aunt Sally, they
be all gwine ter skule down to the old
Hamlin skule hase. Reliance was all in
the airy spring, but I dug some rutes
and airbs and made her some med'cin
an' she's on the mendin' hand ever since.
I tell you, Aunt Sally, there's nothin' like
rutes and airbs for these ailments;
there aint, true's ye live."

"So I mind, Aunt Prudence, but you
allers was a great hand to make med'cin."

At this stage of the conversation a
light step was heard and a bright-eyed
lassie enters the room. Aunt Sally rises
and leads the modest, somewhat timid
girl forward and says, by way of intro-
duction:

"This is my darter Darkis, Aunt Pru-
dence; my darter Darkis; she's been
drefful slim all the fall, and we've been
awful worrid 'bout Darkis, but she's re-
coverin' now. This is Aunt Prudence,
Darkis, Aunt Prudence Benfield, dear."

The girl courtesied gracefully, came
and gave her hand to Aunt Prudence,
who playfully taps her under the chin,
gives her a blushing compliment in a
whisper, and she is seated. Aunt Sally
spreads her knitting work on her lap,
looks at it considerably, then raises her
head, looks from under her glasses and
says:

"Darkis, dear, I wish you'd run down
the road'n tell Aunt Nabby Martin, an'
Ruthy Rankins, an' Susie Sandin, an' old
Gran'mam Benson that Aunt Prudence,
she's come out here a-visitin' and we'd
all be real glad ter hev 'em all come up
after dinner, and come 'so' to stay tu
tea. Run right along, dear; the's a
good gal."

The two industrious old dames now
hitch their chairs close together, sit fac-
ing each other, take up their knitting
and keep time to their conversation by
the snapping of their wires.

The tin kitchen! Who does not remem-
ber it? The barn lantern of perforated tin,
the iron toaster, the shingle mould, the
wooden plow, the pod-agers, the corn-
husks with the inevitable red ears,
the grain-threshings, and the apple-par-
ing bees. Indeed, all these things revive
pleasant memories.

Next is taken up the plantation and
town settlements, biographies being
given of the leading settlers in each of
the towns. Those who descended from
these families ought not to miss the rich
incidents here given, and look upon the
reproduction of the faces of the early
settlers, the lumberman's camp, the mast
pines, early churches and ministers, with
"those morning bells! those morning bells!
How many a tale their music tells
Of youth and home, and that sweet time
When last I heard their soothing chime."

And a vivid description of the primi-
tive preacher, who was a reverent
man of sterling worth. The early Saco
valley "taverns" or "putting up places,"
with their hanging, creaking sign-boards,
where all phases of current topics were
discussed, taking the place of the daily
paper, forms an interesting chapter. In
conjunction with this is an article on
stage lines and drivers. "Farmers' sons
toiling in the fields, hearing the rum-
bling of the stage coach, would lean on
the hoe or rake, raise their chip hats, and
shoot kisses at long range, while the
driver cracked his whip, and through a
cloud of dust would go down the valleys
with horses at full gallop." These were
days of slow travel, when the stage-
driver was looked upon as a man of con-
siderable importance. As he came into
the towns and hamlets along his route
the idle ones would be assembled about
the taverns, waiting for the arrival, to
watch the driver as he came sweeping
around the curves to the broad door-
step, and shouted "whoa!" With what
nonchalant airs and dexterity he threw
the long reins to the hurrying hostler
and wound the long lash around the
hickory whip-stock! He was regarded
as a hero and a dashing gentleman by
the young folks.

The pioneer mother is justly eulogized;
rural life and character form a touching
picture; the Saco River fireside tales are
full of absorbing interest; peculiar char-
acters of that locality are dealt with;
patch-work and quilting frames, the old
militia, hunting, traffic and fishing, close
this department of the work.

More than two-thirds of the space of
this handsome volume is devoted to
family histories, taking all the families of
that region from the very first that is
known about them, down to the present
time, giving in brief a history of each
family. Along with these are portraits
of men who have become famous in the
civil, military and business walks of
life. Few works like this have ever
been attempted in Maine, and carried
through so successfully. It is a com-
plete library in itself, not only interest-
ing to those immediately concerned, but
to the general public.

The Governor has appointed Wm.
Freeman of Cherryfield, Harold N. Sew-
all of Bath, Z. A. Gilbert of North Greene,
Geo. M. Twitchell of Augusta, A. J.
Dargun of Orono, and A. C. T. King of
South Paris, to represent the State at
the Farmer's Congress that convenes at
Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 10th.

Cattle Commissioner Beal recently
visited Levant and examined the herd of
John Thurston. One Jersey cow was
found to be suffering from tuberculosis,
and was killed.

CITY NEWS.

—Fall house cleaning is in order.
—Farmers are coming into market
with their produce.

—The days are rapidly shortening.
Soon the "wear and yellow" last."

—The frost of Saturday night did not
particular damage here. At Togus
some of the tender flowers were killed.

—Many of our Augusta people are in
attendance at the Readfield Fair. This
will be the best day.

—Now for the bright and glorious
September weather, full of the ozone of
health and good cheer.

—Some eight thousand dollars in fines
have been paid into the county treasury,
the past ten days, by rumsmellers.

—Mr. J. H. Manley and family will
take a trip to the Pacific coast the 15th
of October, returning home in December.

—While riding into the country on
Sunday, Chief Engineer Ricker was
thrown from his carriage and suffered a
fracture of the collar bone.

—Harry Villiers, known all over the
country as the "King of Tramps," died,
Monday afternoon, at the alms house in
this city.

—The State field day of the Knights
of Pythias will be held in this city,
October 24, bringing here many plumed
Knights.

—Miss Gertrude E. Fogler, daughter
of Maj. P. M. Fogler, will take a two
years' course at the Dana school, con-
nected with Wellesley College.

—Cony Sturgis and Arthur H. Nason,
both graduates of Cony high school,
class of '95, left, Saturday, for Brun-
swick, where they will enter the fresh-
man class at Bowdoin College.

—Mr. H. A. B. Chandler of Boston,
formerly in trade here, is visiting his
sister, Mrs. Clark, on Weston street.
He has been an invalid, unable to work,
for seven years.

—The city schools began on Monday.
Mr. Graves, the new Principal of the
State street grammar school, is a fine
appearing gentleman, and comes to this
responsible post of duty with the best
wishes of all.

—As many inquiries have been made
concerning the condition of Rev. Dr.
Ricker, we would state that there seems
to be a slight improvement in his case,
as he is able to ride out occasionally on
pleasant days, and is comforted physi-
cally by having a good appetite.

—The entering class at Cony High
numbers 62, probably the largest class in
the history of the school. More than
one-half of these will take the Latin
course. A Sophomore of good judg-
ment says there are more pretty girls in
the Freshman class than ever before en-
tered the school at one time.

—Miss Helen M. Fogler, formerly of
this city, has become connected with
the well known insurance firm of E. F.
Martin, 7 Water St., Boston. She would
be pleased to see there all her friends
who wish to place fire, life or accident
insurance in strong and reliable com-
panies.

—The next annual meeting of the
Maine Federation of Women's Clubs
will be held in this city, October 9th,
10th and 11th. On Wednesday, Oct. 9,
at 8 P. M., a reception will be held in
the rotunda of the State House, to
which visitors and delegates are cordially
invited.

—Next season nearly all of the home
games of base ball will be played in
Augusta, as it has been found that not
enough money is received from games in
Waterville and Gardiner to make it
profitable to play to those cities. The
grounds in this city will be plowed this
fall, then rolled, and in '96 will be in
first class shape.

—Saturday afternoon, Messrs. S. T.
Stilkey & Son left their old quarters
near the Arlington House, and moved
into the new and commodious stable on
Rines' hill, recently erected by Mr.
Byron Boyd. This stable is first class
in all its appointments. Its size is 45x
55 feet, and it is fitted up to accommo-
date 40 horses.

—Mrs. Fra F. Clark of Galesville,
Wisconsin

